

Jeana Wamsley

Literature Circle Two Summary

For Literature Circle 2, I had Dare, Truth, or Promise by author Paula Boock. This story involves Willa and Louie, two girls who fall dramatically in love with each other. For Willa, this is not the first time she has felt this love for another girl, but for Louie, this is a completely new experience. Her catholic background is a constant reminder of her sinful actions and plays into her evolving web of lies and trickery. Willa's background, no matter how far away she tries to run from it, continues to haunt her; eventually, it becomes so tangled, and the conflict is so powerful, that suicide becomes a major issue in the plot line. All in all, the story describes two girls unconventional love for each other and the conflicts that arise, the people who stand in their way of happiness, and the obstacles they must overcome together.

This novel was quite interesting, to say the least. I am not going to lie; it made me feel very uncomfortable for the entire duration of reading. This is an issue that is controversial in schools, but is relevant and current for many students. Young adolescents are revealing their sexuality differences earlier than ever, and students need to understand that acceptance of each other and our differences are vital. As a teacher, however, I am anxious for an issue like this to arise in my own classroom. It is such a touchy subject, and opinions differ so widely, that I am scared of guiding a student into thinking one way or another. I would love to encourage all of my students to freely express their selves, but this may be very contradictory to what their parents or guardians believe is appropriate behavior. In addition to this, I do not want my own feelings on the subject to sway a student into believing a behavior that may not seem right, based on their

own set of beliefs and values. Not only is the issue of homosexuality a concern, but also the bullying that may come with it. I worry that I may not be able to counteract the bullying that comes hand in hand with alternative sexuality during adolescence. Furthermore, this book brings up several concerns for me. I would love to encourage my students to read this novel, but I fear the backlash that may come from angry parents over this touchy subject; it is a balancing act that I am not sure I am cut out to achieve. Overall, I enjoyed the book; I felt it brought up important issues that need to be discussed, the writing was intriguing, and the characters were well developed. With all of this being said, however, I am not sure I would use this book in my classroom, nor would I go out of my way to encourage students to read it, for I am afraid that, as a new teacher, the administration and parents anger would outweigh the benefits of the novel.